

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A tag table data structure encoded on a user device's readable medium, the tag
table data structure including at least one tag that is uniquely associated with one
5 instance of software and including at least one field associated with the tag in the
tag table, and including at least one field indicating a usage status associated
with the tag associated with the instance of software.
2. The tag table data structure of claim 1, wherein the at least one field indicates
use statistics for the one instance of software associated with the tag.
- 10 3. The tag table data structure of claim 1, further including a tag table header that
uniquely identifies the tag table.
4. The tag table data structure of claim 1, wherein the tag table header includes
information concerning user device use statistics and includes a continuation
message.
- 15 5. A computer readable medium encoded with instructions that when read and
executed on a processor perform the following steps:
detects a request to use an instance of software;
determines if a tag corresponding with the instance of software has an associated
status that allows the instance of software to be used; and
20 periodically performs a call-up procedure to validate the authenticity of the tag
and to ensure that the instance of software corresponding to the tag is used in
accordance with a usage supervision policy.